

§ 578.79

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Commandant, U.S. Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, VA 23801-5152, and the Commander, USA HRC (§ 578.3(c) for address).

(2) *Retroactive awards*—(i) *After 1951*. Requests for award of the badge from individuals having no current Army status (veterans and retirees) who qualified after 1951 will be forwarded to the NPRC (see § 578.16(a)(3) for address).

(ii) *Before 1951*. Requests for award of the badge from individuals (Active duty, veterans and retirees) who qualified before 1951 will be submitted to the Commandant, U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, ATTN: ATSM-Q-MG (Historian), Fort Lee, VA 23801-1601. Requests must include written justification and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(d) *Description*. A silver winged hemispherical canopy with conically arrayed cords, 1¾ inches wide, with a band centered on the badge inscribed “RIGGER.”

§ 578.79 Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge.

(a) The Military Free Fall Parachutist Badges identify Special Operations Forces (SOF) personnel who have qualified in one of the military's most demanding and hazardous skills, military free fall parachuting.

(b) *Badge authorized*. Two degrees of the Military Free Fall Parachutist Badges are authorized for award: Basic and Jumpmaster.

(c) *Eligibility requirements*. (1) Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, Basic. To be eligible for the basic badge, an individual must meet one of the following criteria:

(i) Have satisfactorily completed a prescribed program of instruction in military free fall approved by the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWC&S); or

(ii) Have executed a military free fall combat jump.

(2) Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, Jumpmaster. To be eligible for the Jumpmaster Badge, an individual must have satisfactorily completed a prescribed military free fall jumpmaster program of instruction approved by USAJFKSWC&S.

(d) *Approval authority*. (1) The Commander in Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command is the approval authority for award of these badges.

(2) The Commanding General, USAJFKSWC&S is the approval authority for award of the badges to qualifying personnel upon their graduation from USAJFKSWC&S Military Free Fall Parachutist basic and Military Free Fall Parachutist Jumpmaster courses.

(3) *Retroactive award*. Special Operations Forces personnel who qualified in military free fall prior to October 1, 1994 must obtain approval prior to wearing the Military Free Fall Parachutist Badges. Requests for award of the badge will be submitted in writing to Commander, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, ATTN: AFJK-GPD-SA, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000. Applications will include the following:

(i) Name, rank, SSN, and MOS;

(ii) Copy of official jump record, DA Form 1307 (Individual Jump Record), and any other supporting documents (that is, graduation or qualification certificates).

(4) *Veterans and retirees*. Veterans and retirees may request update of their records to show permanent award of the badge by writing to the NPRC (§ 578.16 (a)(3) for address). Requests should include copy of official jump record, DA Form 1307 (Individual Jump Record), and any other support documents (that is, graduation or qualification certificates).

(e) A bronze service star is authorized to be worn on all degrees of the Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge to denote a soldier's participation in a combat parachute jump. Orders are required to confirm award of this badge. A soldier's combat parachute jump credit is tied directly to the combat assault landing credit decision for the unit to which the soldier is assigned or attached at the time of the assault landing. Should a unit be denied air assault credit, no air assault credit for purpose of this badge will accrue to the individual soldiers of that unit. Each soldier must physically exit the aircraft to receive combat parachute jump credit and the Military Free Fall

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Parachutist badge with bronze service star.

§ 578.80 Army Aviator Badges.

(a) *Badges authorized.* There are three degrees of the aviator badges authorized for award. They are as follows: Basic Army Aviator Badge, Senior Army Aviator Badge, and Master Army Aviator Badge.

(b) *Eligibility requirements—(1) Eligibility for U.S. personnel.* An individual must have satisfactorily completed prescribed training and proficiency tests as outlined in AR 600-105, and must have been designated as an aviator in orders issued by headquarters indicated above.

(2) *Eligibility for foreign military personnel.* While only U.S. officers may be awarded an aeronautical rating, the Army Aviator Badge may be awarded to foreign military graduates of initial entry flight-training courses conducted at the U.S. Army Aviation Center. The Senior and Master Army Aviator Badges may be awarded to foreign military personnel rated as pilots who meet or exceed eligibility criteria required of U.S. Army officers for the respective badges, and subject to the regulations of their countries. As a minimum, foreign officers recommended for award of advanced aviator badges must—

(i) Be currently qualified for flying duty in their own military service.

(ii) Be medically qualified.

(iii) If not a graduate of an initial entry U.S. Army aviation course, have attended a formal training or aircraft transition course conducted at Fort Rucker or at an U.S. Army Aviation Training School.

(iv) Have 1000 flying hours in aircraft and 7 years from basic rating date for the Senior Aviator Badge; have 2000 hours in aircraft and 15 years from basic rating date for the Master Aviator Badge. Total Operational Flying Duty Credit (TOFDC) which may be applied by U.S. officers to qualify for advanced badges will not be used to justify awards to foreign officers.

(c) *Approval authority.* Badge approval authority is as follows:

(1) The Commander, U.S. Army Aviation Center and Fort Rucker, to U.S. student aviators upon successful com-

pletion of courses leading to an aeronautical rating of Army Aviator, and to foreign military personnel under the provisions of paragraph (d) of this section.

(2) CG, USA HRC (HRC-OPA-V) to inter-service transfers who previously held an aeronautical rating in another service.

(3) Commanders having general court-martial convening authority may award the Senior or Master Army Aviator Badge to officers on extended active duty.

(4) Major Army overseas commanders, CONUSA (the numbered armies in the continental United States) commanders, and CDR, USA HRC may award the Senior and Master Aviator Badge to U.S. Army Reserve personnel not on extended active duty in the Active Army.

(5) Chief, National Guard Bureau may award the Senior or Master Aviator Badge to Army National Guard (ARNG) personnel not on extended active duty in the Active Army.

(d) *Army Astronaut Device.* A gold colored device, $\frac{7}{16}$ inch in length, consisting of a star emitting three contrails encircled by an elliptical orbit. It is awarded by the Chief of Staff, Army, to personnel who complete a minimum of one operational mission in space (50 miles above earth) and is affixed to the appropriate Army Aviator Badge, Flight Surgeon Badge, or Aviation Badge awarded to the astronaut. Individuals who have not been awarded one of the badges listed above but who meet the other astronaut criteria will be awarded the basic Aviation Badge with Army Astronaut Device.

(e) *Description.* An oxidized silver badge $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in height and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width, consisting of the shield of the coat of arms of the United States on and over a pair of displayed wings. A star is added above the shield to indicate qualification as a Senior Army Aviator. The star is surrounded with a laurel wreath to indicate qualification as a Master Army Aviator.

§ 578.81 Flight Surgeon Badges.

(a) *Badges authorized.* Three levels of Flight Surgeon Badges are authorized for award, Basic Flight Surgeon Badge;